of snag has been identified and adequate steps have been taken to eliminate recurrence of similar snags. AGNI system has since been successfully launched on 19 Feb. 1994.

Strengthening of Coast Guard to prevent smuggling

516. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the statement of the commander of East Coast Guard Region published in the Hindu daily dated the 5th February, 1994 about the difficulty to stop smuggling of fuel from India; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to strengthen the coast guard and prevent smuggl ing of diesel from India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Coast Guard have established coast guard/air station support units operating in the Palk Bay area. Round the clock surveillance and close vigilance on the east coast area has been enhanced by providing additional offshore/ Inshore Patrol Vessels and Interceptors crafts. In additional, all suspicious boats carrying diesel in excess to their requirements are intercepted and inspected.

Indo-German agreement for MBT, Arjun

517. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Germany have signed a contract for the supply and transfer of technology for the engine and transmission systems of the main battle tank Arjun;

(b) what are the features of the agreement; and

(c) whether the German Companies will supply a limited number of engines and transmission systems;

(d) whether they have agreed to supply technology for their domestic manufactures also;

(e) to what extent it will be beneficial for the Arjun Tank; and

(0 by when the agreement is likely to be fully implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIK-ARJUN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (f)- Do not arise.

Firing on Indo-Pak border

518. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK:
SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there have been incidents of intermittent firing from across the border on Indian army positions in Jammu and Kashmir, including in the Poonch sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the number of casualties of civilian and army men and loss of property during 1993; and

(c) what steps Government have taken so far or propose to take to stop such firings from Pakistani side and whether any protest notes have been sent to Pakistan Government to desist from such activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCFE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) (a) Firing by Pakistani troops along the Line of Cdntrol/border in Jammu and Kashmir is a regular feature.

(b) There were a total of 1918 firing incidents during 1993. There were a few casualties in the Army and the BSF Eleven civilians were wounded in the firings.

(c) Since cases of firing were of a minor nature, such instances were tackled at the local level.

Killing of soldiers of Defence services corps by militants at Awantipur

519. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that nine soldiers of the Defence Services Corps at Radio Beacon System at Zadoora of the military air base, Awantipur, south Kashmir, were killed on

9th January, 1994 by the militants who escaped after taking away their guns;

(b) if so, what are the facts in this regard;

(c) what are the names of persons killed;

(d) the circumstances under which the militants, alongwidi their weapons, gained entry into the sensitive security area and took away their arms after killing the jawans;

(e) whether Government have made any enquiry into the matter; if so, with what results;

(f) what security measures were taken in this sensitive area before this incident and thereafter; and

(g) what compensation Government have provided to the families of the victims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIK-ARJUN): (a) to (g) On 9th January 1994 the militants overpowered a Defence Security Corps post at the outer market (Instrument Landing System) of Air Force Station, Srinagar located at village Zadoora (Pulwama District), 6.7 kms south-east of Srinagar airfield. The incident took place in Srinagar and not in Awantipur. In the attack, the following 9 DSC personnel were killed and one (1) MES (Military Engineering Service) employee injured:—

DSC Personnel killed

(1) Hav Hemraj Parihar
(2) Nk Dharam Chand
(3) Sep Mahendra Singh
(4) Sep Ram Phol
(5) Sep Balwant Singh
(6) Sep Bisan Singh
(7) Sep Kadar Singh
(8) Nk Gain Chand
(9) L/Nk Ganga Singh

MES Employee injured

(1) Shri Gulam Nabi Bhat

In the preliminary investigation, it has been revealed that 3 civilians entered the fenced area and engaged the above mentioned injured MES employee in conversation for about 10-15 minutes. Thereafter, they move towards the hut and attacked the inmates with their weapons. In this attack by the militants, the above mentioned DSC personnel were killed and the MES employee injured.

A Court of Inquiry has been ordered to investigate the incident.

After the above incident, additional armed guards have been provided to isolated posts in J&K area.

(i) The families of the deceased DSC personnel are being paid Rs. 1.5 lakhs each as insurance cover from Army Group Insurance Scheme, death gratuity and family pension as applicable, depending upon the length of service, ranging from Rs. 375/-to Rs. 1250/-per month.

(ii) The injured MES civilian employee is not entitled to any compensation. However, he would be entitled to "Disability Pension" in case he is boarded out from service on medical grounds due to the injuries sustained in the incident.

Indo-Chinese joint manufacture of commercial aircrafts

520. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and China propose to pool their technological and other resources to jointly manufacture commercial aircraft;

(b) if so, the terms and conditions laid down to jointly manufacture aircraft jointly;

(c) whether the import of aircraft by Government would be curbed as a result thereof; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKAJRUN): (a) to (d) Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. have signed a memorandum of understanding with a Korean company for a joint study to explore the feasibility of manufacture of 100-130 seater passenger aircraft, also possibly involving others including China.